

Listing of the Claims:

1. (currently amended) In a computing device having an executing program, a method comprising:

evaluating a program field that has focus against information indicative of whether the field is configured to receive text input from typed user input; and

if the field is configured to receive text input:

1) providing a visible user input interface at a displayed location relative to the field such that the user input interface is operable to receive handwritten data while the field is operable to simultaneously receive typed input data from a physical keyboard, the program field still operable to receive typed user input;

2) receiving handwritten data at the input interface;

3) providing the handwritten data to a recognition engine; and

4) returning a recognition result to the program.

2. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the visible user input interface is semi-transparent.

3. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the handwritten data received at the input interface is evaluated to determine whether the handwritten data corresponds to a gesture.

4. (original) The method of claim 3 wherein the handwritten data corresponds to a gesture, and further comprising, providing at least one pen event corresponding to the gesture to the program.

5. (original) The method of claim 4 wherein the visible user input interface is semi-transparent, and wherein the gesture comprises user input directed to an area of the program that is visible through the semi-transparent user interface.

6. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein providing the handwritten data to a recognition engine is performed in response to detection of a submit button associated with the visible user interface.

7. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein providing the handwritten data to a recognition engine is performed in response to a time being achieved.

8. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein providing the handwritten data to a recognition engine is performed in response to a gesture being detected.

9. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein evaluating the program field that has focus comprises evaluating at least one window attribute corresponding to the field.

10. (original) The method of claim 9 wherein evaluating at least one window attribute corresponding to the field comprises accessing window class information.

11. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising, accessing a database to obtain the information indicative of whether the field is configured to receive text input.

12. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising, adjusting the appearance of the visible input window.

13. (original) The method of claim 12 wherein adjusting the appearance of the visible input window comprises increasing its size to enable entry of additional handwritten data.

14. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising, erasing the visible input window.

15. (original) The method of claim 14 wherein the visible input window is erased in response to receiving a close request.

16. (original) The method of claim 14 wherein the visible input window is erased in response to a time being achieved.

17. (original) The method of claim 14 wherein the visible input window is erased in response to a gesture being detected.

18. (currently amended) In a computing device having a program, a system comprising:

user input interface code operable to receive typed input from a user;

a field typing engine configured to evaluate a field of the program, determine if that field is supported by the user input interface code, and if so, to communicate information to the user input interface code;

the user input interface code drawing a visible input area to indicate that data may be entered therein while still allowing the user to simultaneously enter typed input from a physical keyboard via the user input interface code, the drawing of the visible input area based on the information received from the field typing engine; and

a recognition engine that receives entered data from the user input interface code and converts the entered data to a recognition result that is made available to the program by the user input interface.

19. (original) The system of claim 18, wherein the visible input area is semi-transparent.

20. (original) The system of claim 18, wherein the field typing engine evaluates at least one window attribute corresponding to the field against hard-coded or retrieved information to determine whether the field is supported.

21. (currently amended) The system of claim 18 wherein the entered data comprises handwritten data, and further comprising a gesture detection engine that evaluates the handwritten data to determine whether the handwritten data corresponds to a gesture, and if so, to provide at least one event to the program.

22. (original) The system of claim 21 wherein the visible user input interface is semi-transparent, and wherein the gesture comprises user input directed to an area of the program that is visible through the semi-transparent user interface.

23. (original) The system of claim 18 wherein the entered data comprises handwritten data, and further comprising a rulebase that determines an appearance of the visible input area including a displayed size thereof.

24. (original) The system of claim 23 wherein the rulebase increases the displayed size of the visible input area based on handwritten data approaching an end thereof.

25. (original) The system of claim 18 wherein the visible input area has at least one button associated therewith for receiving a command.

26. (original) The system of claim 25 wherein at least one button comprises a submit button associated with the visible user interface, activation of the submit button commanding the user input interface code to communicate the entered data to the recognition engine.

27. (original) The system of claim 18 wherein the user input interface code provides the recognition result to the program in a message queue associated with the program.

28. (original) The system of claim 18 wherein the drawing of the visible input area positions the visible input area relative to the field based on the information received from the field typing engine.

29. (original) The system of claim 18 wherein the drawing of the visible input area sizes the visible input area based on the information received from the field typing engine.

30. (currently amended) In a computer system having a graphical user interface, a system comprising,

an application program having at least one application input area into which user input data can be entered wherein at least one way in which input data may be entered includes user-typed data;

user interface code external to the application program;

a typing engine that determines whether to call the user interface code for a selected application input area of the application program based on attribute information associated with that application input area, the user interface code providing a semi-transparent input area based on the attribute information when called, the semi-transparent input area configured such that a user may still simultaneously enter data via user-typed data input from a physical keyboard into the user interface code;

a timing mechanism configured to cause removal of the semi-transparent input area when no user interaction with the visible input area is detected for a period of time;

a gesture engine, the gesture engine invoked to determine whether user input data directed to the semi-transparent input area is a gesture directed to the application program or information that should be recognized as text; and

a handwriting recognition engine, the handwriting recognition engine configured to receive the information that the gesture engine has decided should be recognized as text, the handwriting recognition engine responding by returning recognized text when provided with the information.

31. (original) The system of claim 30 wherein the recognized text is received by the user interface code and made available to the application program.

32. (original) The system of claim 30 wherein the application program displays the recognized text in the application input area.

33. (original) The system of claim 30 further comprising a growth rulebase, the growth rulebase determining whether to alter an appearance of the semi-transparent input area in response to the information received therein.